

Mayor's Council on Disability  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2010

Chairperson, John Jackson, Creative Initiative  
Vice Chair, Bryon Kluesner, UTC OSD Office  
Secretary, Carol Martin, UTK Center on Disability & Employment  
Parliamentarian, open

Council Members

Tommy Gates, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation  
Carolyn Boyd, Signal Centers (excused absence)  
Phillip Stevens, City of Chattanooga (excused absence)

Mayor's Office Participants

Matt Lea, Assistant to Mayor  
Jay Piercy, OMA City Compliance Officer  
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Permanent Appointments

Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van  
Elaine Adams, City Therapeutic Recreation

Visitors:

Chris Jackson, TN DIDS  
Dennis Dodson, Mental Health Advocate  
Elaine Adams, City Therapeutic Recreation  
Danielle Hooper, CABIA  
April Taylor, Moccasin Bend  
Katie Jones, Merrill Lynch  
Janice Wheeler, Engstrom Services  
Kay Andrews, Sociologist  
Robert White, Epilepsy Foundation  
Karl Epperson  
Terri Rice, TN Blind Services

John Jackson welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. Carol Martin asked if there were any changes to the minutes. With only some spacing corrections, the minutes, as corrected, were approved.

Bryon Kluesner, UTC Office for Students with Disabilities, said that the OSD trip is 69 days away. Bryon announced that he brought a copy of last year's trip documentary to the Mayor to view. He also mentioned that the recent UTC graduating class included 12 students with disabilities.

Dennis Dodson, mental health advocate, introduced the book, Tears of a Warrior, a family story of combat and subsequent living with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. He said the Crisis Intervention Team is looking for resources to deal with veterans on mental health calls. Dennis highly recommended this book. Twenty copies can be purchased for just \$14 for shipping and handling. Dennis also mentioned that he took a suicide prevention course from Tim Tatum, TN Suicide Prevention Network, who has monthly training meetings at the YMCA on the first Thursday of every month. Dennis recommended this class and said he hoped that the MCD members will serve as advocates and get the word out to increase attendance at these trainings.

Chris Jackson, TN DIDS, said the Governor's Council annually reviews the TN Code Annotated for any issues that may affect people with disabilities. If anyone on the Council has any input, please forward remarks to Chris or Jill Hindman.

Jill Hindman announced that the last day to register at the reduced hotel rate for the TN Disability Megaconference is May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kathie Fulgham said that she is in the middle of sending out sponsorship packages to potential Go!Fest sponsors. She said that Matt has already been working hard and has the entertainment set. The website has been updated and Kathie is working on getting a media sponsor.

Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van, said that he received an increase for his division to service the proposed newly annexed areas of the City.

Matt Lea said that he and Phillip thought that a link to the MCD Bylaws would be helpful on the MCD website. The Council agreed that this was a good idea. Jill suggested putting a summary of the ADA on the website. Jim Queen suggested that the website just link to the summary that CARTA uses.

Matt also discussed the “train the trainer” training that he received to train groups on how to spot potential terrorism. The program takes about two hours and Matt said if the Council was interested he would set up some training.

Sandy Booher said the Guide Dog Support Group continues to meet at 2:00 on the second Saturday of the month. The group started last year with five members and continues to grow. If anyone is planning to get a guide dog, and wishes to have some support, contact Terri Rice.

Lana Newton, TN DRS, reported on the Deaf-Blind Camp. There were 125 campers and 54 volunteers that stayed the night and another 40 that volunteered during the day. She said it was lots of fun with lots of learning. Terri Rice taught cooking lessons; Chris Jackson was the photographer; there was dancing, meditation, contra dancing. Terri said it was a great experience for the deaf-blind campers and for the volunteers. Some of the volunteers who did not sign said they wanted to learn to sign and volunteer again next year.

Danielle Hooper announced that on Thursday, May 6th at 5:30pm, the Epilepsy Foundation will have a support group at Siskin Hospital. This week’s meeting includes discussion about service dogs for people with epilepsy.

Janice Wheeler introduced herself and discussed her agency, Engstrom Services, which offers services for people with intellectual

disabilities. This agency is a spinoff from TEAM Evaluation Center. Janice said her largest program is funded by TN DIDS and another new program will be funded by TENNCARE that will provide psychological assessments to persons with developmental disabilities.

Matt Lea extended his appreciation to the MCD members who rolled off the Council this month.

The next meeting will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Carol Martin, Secretary  
Mayor's Council on Disability